



**STANDISH-WITH-LANGTREE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

together with the

Report of the

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the year

1970

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STANDISH-WITH-LANGTREE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council:

Councillor J. HEALEN

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

Councillor E. A. NAYLOR

Members of the Council:

Councillor T. BARNES

Councillor A. BIBBY

Councillor T. BISHOP

Councillor J. N. BLACKLEDGE

Councillor E. GARNER

Councillor J. R. LEIGH

Councillor W. LYON

Councillor W. MASON

Councillor J. McALLISTER

Councillor G. MEADOW

Councillor Mrs. M. E. TURNER

Councillor G. WEATHERBY

Councillor R. HART, C.ENG., M.I.M.E.

The Public Health Committee consisting of all Members of the Council is the Committee having charge of matters of public health within the Urban District.

Chairman of the Public Health Committee:

Councillor E. GARNER

Vice-Chairman of the Public Health Committee:

Councillor J. McALLISTER

Clerk of the Council:

G. GRAY, A.C.I.S.

Medical Officer of Health:

P. LEE, B.Sc.(Hons.), M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

B. L. PARKER, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

P. S. DAVIES, Dip. P.H.I.E.B.

Clerk:

Miss J. E. JOLLEY

Standish-with-Langtree Urban District Council

Public Health Department,
Ashfield House,

Telephone: Standish 2012.

Standish.

June, 1971.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Standish-with-Langtree Urban District Council*

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1970.

As in previous years it has been compiled in accordance with instructions from the Department of Health and Social Security.

I wish to express my gratitude for the assistance and co-operation received from the Officers of the Council and particularly to Mr. B. L. Parker, the Chief Public Health Inspector, for his unfailing support.

I also respectfully wish to offer to members of the Council my appreciation for the courtesy and encouragement given to me at all times.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

P. LEE,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Population (Preliminary Census, 1961).....	.....	.....	.....	9,689
Registrar-General's estimated mid-year (1970) home population .....	.....	.....	.....	10,920
Acreage of district .....	.....	.....	.....	3,266
Number of inhabited dwellings at end of 1970 according to rate book .....	.....	.....	.....	4,030
Rateable value (31st March, 1970) .....	.....	.....	.....	£372,328
Product of penny rate (Actual 31st March, 1970)	£1,512	11s.	9d.	

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Standish-with-Langtree Urban District is pleasantly situated north of the County Borough of Wigan and adjoining it.

The Rural District of Wigan lies to the east and west and the Rural District of Chorley to the north.

Standish itself is located on the M6 motorway and is easily accessible by both north and southbound traffic.

The maximum distance between the boundaries is about five miles and the height of the district above sea level varies from 88 to 375 feet.

The surface waters mainly gravitate to the adjacent Douglas Valley to be taken away by the river of that name.

The geological formation is of black loamy soil having generally a sandy sub-soil and in the eastern parts there are considerable strata of hard rock. The district is rich in coal seams at varying depths.

Although the district is typically urban much of the property is residential in character.

The principal industries in the district are food canning and bottling, manufacture of textiles, agriculture and engineering. Employment in these industries has been well maintained during the year.

All coal mines in and adjacent to the district have now been closed, consequently the effects of mining subsidence are now gradually diminishing.

For the purpose of Local Government the district is divided into five wards, each with three representatives, making a total of fifteen Councillors.

VITAL STATISTICS

				Local Authority Area			England and Wales (Total)			Local Authority Area	England and Wales
				Males	Females	Total					
Estimated mid-year home population				—	—	10,920	48,987,700				
Live Births	Total	93	100	193	784,482	Live Birth rates, etc.					
	Legitimate	92	95	187	719,738	Live births per 1,000 home population (crude rate) ...				17·7	16·0
	Illegitimate	1	5	6	64,744	Area comparability factor				·98	1·00
						Local adjusted rate... ..				17·3	16·0
						Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate				1·08	1·00
						Illegitimate live births as percentage of all live births...				3	8
Stillbirths	Total	—	3	3	10,341	Stillbirth rate					
	Legitimate	—	3	3	9,297	Still births per 1,000 total live and still births				15	13
	Illegitimate	—	—	—	1,044						
Total live and stillbirths	Total	93	103	196	794,823						
	Legitimate	92	98	190	729,035						
	Illegitimate	1	5	6	65,788						
Death of Infants under 1 year of age	Total	5	4	9	14,269	Infant mortality rates					
	Legitimate	5	3	8	12,592	Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births				47	18
	Illegitimate	—	1	1	1,677	Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate live births				43	17
						Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate live births				167	26
under 4 weeks of age	Total	3	3	6	9,663	NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE					
	Legitimate	3	2	5	8,548	Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births				31	12
	Illegitimate	—	1	1	1,115						
under 1 week of age	Total	3	3	6	8,328	EARLY NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE					
	Legitimate	3	2	5	7,343	Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births ...				31	11
	Illegitimate	—	1	1	985	<i>Perinatal mortality rate</i>					
						Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 total live and still births				46	23
Deaths—all ages				62	54	116	575,208	Deaths rates, etc.—all ages			
								Deaths per 1,000 home population (crude rate)... ..			
								Area comparability factor			
								Local adjusted rate... ..			
								Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate			

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1970

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Age in years									
					1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 & over	
Enteritis and Other Diarrhoeal Diseases	M.	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm (Stomach)	F.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm (Intestine)	F.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm (Lung-Bronchus)	M.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm (Lung-Bronchus)	F.	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm (Breast)	F.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm (Breast)	M.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm (Prostate)	F.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm (Prostate)	M.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Malignant Neoplasms	M.	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	-
Diabetes Mellitus	F.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
Diabetes Mellitus	M.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	F.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hypertensive Disease	M.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Hypertensive Disease	F.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ischaemic Heart Disease	M.	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	4	7	4
Ischaemic Heart Disease	F.	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	9
Other Forms of Heart Disease	M.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other Forms of Heart Disease	F.	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	3
Cerebrovascular Disease	M.	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Cerebrovascular Disease	F.	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	F.	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Influenza	M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Influenza	F.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Pneumonia	M.	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Pneumonia	F.	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Bronchitis and Emphysema	M.	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1
Bronchitis and Emphysema	F.	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	F.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peptic Ulcer	M.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Peptic Ulcer	F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases of Digestive System	M.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases of Digestive System	F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	F.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	M.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	F.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Anomalies	M.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Anomalies	F.	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	M.	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	F.	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	M.	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	F.	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	M.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	F.	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1
All Other Accidents	M.	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
All Other Accidents	F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total All Causes	M.	62	3	2	-	-	-	-	2	5	13	21	16	16
Total All Causes	F.	54	3	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	8	12	28	28

CANCER: Sixteen deaths occurred in 1970—thirteen males and three females—compared with twenty-three deaths—eleven males and twelve females—in 1969.

Facilities for radium treatment for Standish residents are available at the Manchester Radium Institute and at Wigan Infirmary Clinic.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratories of the Public Health Laboratory Service established at the Wigan and Preston Infirmaries are used for bacteriological examinations. Chemical analyses are usually undertaken by the County Analyst at Preston.

The arrangements have proved quite adequate and satisfactory.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The duty of providing an Ambulance Service devolves upon the Lancashire County Council (Health Division No. 8) as the Local Authority under the National Health Service Act. An ambulance station situated in Glebe Close covers the needs of Standish. The service is quite satisfactory.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Apart from an outbreak of 106 cases of measles occurring in children under ten years of age there were few cases of other diseases notified during the year.

Food poisoning. No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

A considerable amount of follow-up work was undertaken by the Chief Public Health Inspector in ensuring freedom from infection of enteric origin in both case and contact.

Thirty-four pathological specimens were obtained necessitating a total of forty-six visits.

General. In accordance with the provisions of the Health Services and Public Health Act, 1968, a copy of each notification of an infectious disease, including food poisoning, has to be sent by the department to the Local Health Authority on the day of its receipt, if possible, and in any case within forty-eight hours after its receipt.

Other returns relating to the prevalence of and deaths from notifiable infectious diseases have to be sent to the Registrar-General and the County Medical Officer of Health at weekly and quarterly intervals.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1970

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total cases at all ages	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED AGE PERIODS—YEARS											65 and over	Age unknown	Total deaths
		0	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	25	45				
Measles (excluding rubella)	...	106	6	9	11	12	14	52	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Infective jaundice	...	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	...	112	6	9	11	14	14	54	3	1	—	—	—	—	—

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

The following statistics show the number of children under sixteen years of age resident in Standish who were immunised and vaccinated during the year.

<i>Type of prophylactic</i>	<i>Primary</i>	<i>Reinforce- ment</i>
Diphtheria	176	320
Whooping cough	166	44
Tetanus	176	320
Poliomyelitis	184	208
Measles.....	201	Nil
Rubella	28	Nil
Smallpox vaccinations	113	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS

Arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis are vested in the County Council, specialist chest physicians of the Regional Hospital Boards and the general practitioners. The County Council, on direction of the Minister of Health, is responsible for both prevention and after-care of this condition, but local sanitary authorities are still empowered under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, to take all necessary action to prevent the spread of infection and the Medical Officer of Health still retains specific duties and responsibilities under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952.

Standish cases attend the Wigan Chest Clinic.

One new case of respiratory tuberculosis was notified during the year compared with two respiratory and two non-respiratory cases last year. There were no deaths from tuberculosis.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

No action was taken under these Acts in respect of the removal of persons in need of care and attention.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The Statutory Water Undertaker is the Makerfield Water Board, which, on the 2nd October, 1961, assumed responsibility for providing the district with a sufficient and wholesome supply of water.

The Council has one representative on the Makerfield Water Board.

The water supplied to Standish is zoned into the following three areas:

- (a) The Green Lane zone supplied directly with Thirlmere water. This water is chlorinated at the Green Lane works.
- (b) The Prospect zone supplied with a mixture of water from Thirlmere and Worthington via the Prospect reservoir. The Thirlmere element is chlorinated and the Worthington water is filtered and chlorinated.
- (c) The Harrock Hill reservoir zone supplied with mixed water pumped from Prospect reservoir.

All houses in the district are supplied from public water mains direct to houses and the supply is generally plentiful.

Except that five complaints about turbidity and particulate matter in water were referred to the Makerfield Water Board - no action was necessary as regards more serious contamination or plumbo-solvency.

The fluoride content is 0.027 part per million.

Water Sampling. The following samples of water going into supply were taken during the year and the results are tabulated below.

Bacteriological examinations			Chemical analyses		
No.	Results		No.	Results	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
3	3	Nil	2	2	Nil

The water supply is consistently reported upon as a good soft upland surface water free from organic pollution and in every way quite fit for drinking and all domestic purposes.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. B. L. Parker—Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent—has kindly contributed the following report:—

DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Butchers Shops	22	Watercourses and River Pollu-	
Slaughterhouses	149	tion	9
Bakehouses	5	Dustbin Provision	202
Fish and Chip Shops	18	Keeping of Animals and Poultry	1
Ice-Cream Vendors	17	Housing Act Inspections ...	327
Cafes and Canteens	15	Houses in Multiple Occupation...	1
Licensed Premises	46	Housing Applications	2
Other Food Premises	115	Caravans and Moveable Dwellings	10
Food Hawkers and Delivery		Infectious Disease Inquiries ...	46
Vehicles	108	Filthy or Verminous Premises ...	20
Dairies	4	Insect Infestations (various) ...	63
Milk Distributors	15	Disinfection of Premises	2
Factories (Non-Mechanical) ...	1	Disinfestation of Premises ...	68
Factories (Mechanical)	17	Interviews with Owners, etc. ...	109
Sites of Building Operations and		Re-Inspection of Notices	42
Works of Engineering Con-		Rodent Control	573
struction	12	Atmospheric Pollution	40
P.H.A. Workplaces	6	Water Supplies	13
Outworkers Premises	3	Swimming Baths and Pools ...	7
Shops under Shops Act	294	Hairdressing Establishments ...	20
O.S.R.P. Act	125	Welfare—Aged Persons and Prob-	
Investigation of Complaints ...	99	lem Families	14
Inspection and Tests Drainage...	307	Noise Abatement Act	16
School Sanitary Accommodation	7	Agricultural Units	20
Septic Tanks and Cesspools ...	15	Outdoor Fetes	3
Supervision over Refuse Collec-		Civic Amenities Act	118
tion and Disposal	236	Various Causes	107

Total Number of Inspections: 3,469

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS OR NUISANCES

<i>Description</i>	<i>No. discovered and abated</i>
Defective refuse receptacles	202
Defective or obstructed drainage systems	173
Offensive odours and accumulations	24
Defective windows	14
Defective roofs	13
Noise nuisances	10
Defective or obstructed private sewage disposal plant	9
Dangerous boundary walls	6
Smoke and grit emission	6
Insufficient or unsatisfactory water supplies	6
Obstructed eaves gutters or rainwater pipes	5
Damp - defective and perished wall plaster	5
Abandoned or derelict vehicles	5
Polluted or obstructed watercourses	5
Flooded cellars and sub-floor spaces	5
Defective chimney stacks and flues	4
Defective cold water service pipes.....	4
Defective brickwork (external walls)	4
Defective water closet appliances	4
Filthy or verminous premises	4
Defective or insanitary sink waste pipes	3
Defective or flooded approach paths and yards	3
Keeping of animals and poultry	3
Defective eaves gutters or rainwater pipes	2
Defective doors and frames	1
Condensation	1
Defects or nuisances: Number discovered and abated	521
Number of notices served: Informal 10. Statutory 1.	
Legal proceedings: Nil.	

The foregoing statistics indicate the attention given to improving the everyday environmental matters which are so essential to the health and well-being of the community—matters which although unspectacular in themselves cover a field far wider than is generally appreciated.

The duties of the department continue to increase due to the growth of the district and the impact of new legislation dealing with environmental matters.

The sanitary circumstances of the district have been kept under close supervision and every endeavour has been made to deal with any health problems that have arisen.

The chief sanitary requirements of the district remain the completion of the sewerage and sewage disposal scheme and the paving and drainage of unmade roads. Both these matters are being dealt with by the Council.

The work of the Public Health Department is prevention rather than cure. The department seeks to ensure that at all times and in all places all that contributes to the health and comfort of the individual is assured.

DRAINAGE

The Council operates a rate-born drain clearing service under the control of the Public Health Department.

This service ensures the expeditious clearance of obstructed drainage systems which might otherwise give rise to potentially unhealthy conditions.

It is a service which is greatly appreciated by the general public and was called for on 173 occasions.

Where as sometimes happens drainage systems are found to be defective—advice is given to owners as to the best method of remedying the faults found and work in progress is supervised.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

Approximate number of the various types of sanitary accommodation provided in the district is as follows:—

Number of dwellings on water carriage system	4,028
Number of dwellings not on water carriage system	2
Number of privy middens (mostly on farms)	3
Number of pail closets (mostly on farms)	7
Number of waste water closets	2
Number of moveable dustbins	4,235

It is impracticable for the few remaining conservancy closets to be connected to the public sewerage system, but, as opportunities arise, every effort is made and ingenuity used, to find ways and means of conversion to the water carriage system with outfall to private sewage disposal plant.

HOUSING STATISTICS

1.—Number of new dwellings erected during the year:—

	Houses	Flats
(i) By the local authority	17	25
(ii) By other local authorities	Nil	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons	22	Nil

2.—Total number of dwellings owned by any local authority existing in district at end of year

1,030

3.—Inspections of dwellings during the year:—

(i) (a) Total number of dwellings inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	193
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	235
(c) Number of dwellings in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	10
(ii) Total number of dwellings existing at end of year, occupied or not, which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which:—	
(a) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have been made (at any time)	17
(b) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have not yet been made	41

4.—Houses Demolished:—

In or Adjoining Clearance Areas:

	Number	Displaced during year from houses to be demolished or closed Persons Families	
(i) Houses unfit for human habitation	Nil	}	Nil Nil
(ii) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	Nil		
(iii) Houses on land acquired under S.43(2), Housing Act, 1957	Nil		

Not in Adjoining Clearance Areas:

(iv) As a result of formal or informal procedure under S.16 or S.17(1), Housing Act, 1957	3	}	6 2
(v) Local authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	Nil		
(vi) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	Nil		
(vii) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders.....	Nil		

5.—Unfit houses closed:—	Number	Displaced during year from houses to be demolished or closed	
		Persons	Families
(i) Under S.16(4), S.17(1) and S.35(1), Housing Act, 1957, and S.26, Housing Act, 1961	Nil	}	Nil Nil
(ii) Under S.17(3) and S.26, Housing Act, 1957	Nil		
(iii) Parts of buildings closed under S.18, Housing Act, 1957	Nil		

6.—Unfit houses made Fit:—	Number	
(i) By owner after informal action by local authority	10	
(ii) After formal notice under S.9 and S.16, Housing Act, 1957		
(a) By owner	Nil	
(b) By local authority	Nil	
(iii) After formal notice under Public Health Acts	1	
(iv) After modification or revocation of a clearance order under S.24, Housing Act, 1961.....	Nil	
(v) After determination of a demolition order under S.24, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	

7.—Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Act, 1957):—		
	Number of houses (1)	Number of separate dwellings contained in column (1) (2)
Position at end of year:		
(i) Retained for temporary accommodation—		
(a) Under Section 48.....	Nil	Nil
(b) Under S.17(2)	Nil	Nil
(c) Under S.46	Nil	Nil
(ii) Licensed for temporary occupation under S.34 or S.53	Nil	—

8.—Purchase of houses by agreement:—	Number of houses (1)	Number of occupants of houses in Col. (1) (2)
Houses in clearance areas other than those included in confirmed orders or compulsory purchase orders	Nil	Nil

**9.—Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958, and Housing Act, 1969—
Improvement grants, etc.:—**

	Number of dwelling houses or other buildings affected in schemes of		
	Owner occupied	Others	Local Authority
Action during year:			
(i) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	8	5	—
(ii) Approved by local authority.....	8	5	—
(iii) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	Nil	Nil	32
(iv) Finally approved by Ministry.....	Nil	Nil	32
(v) Work completed	8	5	Nil
(vi) Additional separate dwellings included in (v) above	Nil	Nil	Nil
(vii) Any other action taken under the Acts, e.g. General Improvement Areas		Nil	

10.—House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 and Housing Acts, 1961, 1964 and 1969—Standard grants:—

	Number of dwellings or other buildings affected	
	Owner occupied	Others
Action during year:		
(i) Applications submitted to local authority for improvement to (a) full standard	15	2
(b) reduced standard	Nil	Nil
(ii) Total applications approved by local authority for improvement to (a) full standard	15	2
(b) reduced standard	Nil	Nil
(iii) Work completed	15	2
(iv) Particulars of any action taken relating to compulsory improvement of dwellings		Nil

HOUSING: Housing is one of the most important factors affecting the health of any community. The duty of maintaining an inspection of the housing conditions in the district was continued during the year. Much time was devoted to this important sphere of environmental health work which resulted in the improvement of the housing conditions of many families.

Slum clearance proposals have so far involved the demolition or closing of ninety dwelling houses.

The appraisal of housing conditions is a continuing process which can never be completed and it is estimated that at the present time forty-one houses do not have an expectation of life of fifteen years.

Following the purchase by agreement of thirty-eight sub-standard National Coal Board houses in Moores Lane and James Square vacation and demolition of the properties is progressing.

Re-development of the cleared site for housing purposes would bring about a desirable improvement in the present environment.

Good progress has been made with the actual demolition of condemned properties without resort to default action.

Housing conditions in the district are generally fairly good and no serious slum problem exists.

One house in multiple occupation has been let off in rooms so as to provide two units of accommodation. The premises comply with the statutory requirements and a good standard of management is applied.

A house-to-house survey has revealed that of the total stock of 4,030 houses in the district some 387 are in need of improvement although about fifty of this number lack only an internal water closet.

These houses are sub-standard but are not in such a state of disrepair and not so badly arranged as to be included in slum-clearance schemes. Most of these houses were built in the late nineteenth century—they are structurally sound but lack what are rightly considered today to be essential amenities—and still have a useful life probably in the region of twenty to thirty years. The residents of these dwellings are normally content to remain where they have lived for most of their lives and would welcome the improvement of their homes to give them the minimum amenities which are expected today.

Each year steady progress is made in putting new life into this type of dwelling.

Of the three types of grant available for modernising older houses, the following are made use of in Standish:—

- (1) The Standard Grant of up to £200 obtainable by owners as of right. A total of 125 houses have been furnished with one or more of the standard amenities since these provisions first came into operation in 1959.
- (2) The Improvement Grant of up to £1,000 which covers more extensive improvements is paid at the discretion of the Council. A total of 228 houses have been improved to the twelve point standard since these provisions first came into operation in 1949.

It is in both national and local interest that the maximum number of houses—capable of being raised to this higher standard of fitness—comfort and convenience—should be preserved—for all houses should be furnished with these simple aids to healthy living. To halt obsolescence before it reaches the slum stage by providing some measure of financial assistance is a much better proposition than doing nothing until the only solution is demolition and a new house as a replacement.

The Council has approved a scheme prepared by consultant architects for the modernisation of 333 pre-war Council houses which was in progress at the end of the year.

The purchase of fifty-nine National Coal Board houses and a further eleven privately owned houses in Hutton Street was completed.

At the end of the year there were 103 applicants for Council housing accommodation—approximately forty-three requiring two-bedroom—sixteen requiring three-bedroom—three requiring larger houses and forty-one requiring aged persons accommodation. Whilst a degree of overcrowding exists it does not constitute a serious problem. Investigation into the circumstances of a number of applicants was made and reports prepared for the guidance of the committee in its endeavours to ensure that applicants with the greatest housing need are re-housed. The number of applicants having an acute housing need is now not so great as it was some few years ago.

Whilst Standish attracts considerable housing development by private enterprise—there remains no small demand and preference for that substantial municipal house with the security of good management.

The construction of forty-five dwellings to redevelop the Grove Place site following the demolition of twenty aluminium bungalows was nearing completion at the end of the year.

Mining subsidence continues—now to a lesser degree—to make its impact upon the community here—destroying houses and disrupting families. No amount of depreciation payments or remedial works can fully compensate the householder—more particularly the housewife who bears the brunt of the upset—for the inconvenience and unrest caused.

Mining subsidence—an inexact science—is a continuing process which can never be fully assessed and where it is in evidence normal day-to-day work is all the more difficult.

Rent Act, 1957

Certificates of Disrepair

No action was called for under the provisions of this Act during the year.

Housing Act, 1969

Qualification Certificates

One certificate of provisional approval and six qualification certificates were issued in respect of houses subject to improvement.

Forty-five applications were under consideration in respect of houses where the standard amenities were already provided.

DISINFESTATION

The following premises were disinfested during the year for the reasons stated:

Ants	.....	.....	.....	29	Unwholesome conditions	2	
Wasps	.....	.....	.....	12	Australian spider beetles	1	
Clover mite	.....	.....		10	Cat fleas	.....	1
Cockroaches	.....	.....		5	Clothes moth larvae	.....	1
Bees	.....	.....	.....	2	Crickets	.....	1
Cluster flies	.....	.....		2	Fleas	.....	1
Silver fish	.....	.....		2	Plaster beetles	.....	1

Where the furniture and effects of prospective tenants of Council houses are known to be verminous—disinfestation is carried out in order to prevent infestation of the new premises.

Spraying and dusting with various insecticidal liquids and powders proved to be highly effective.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION

All notified cases of certain infectious diseases are visited and enquiries made relative to the source of infection and general home conditions. Recommendations are made and advice given concerning isolation of the case and the care to be exercised by contacts.

Public library books from infected premises are disinfected by the Health Department before being returned to the library for re-issue. Books in an unserviceable condition are sometimes destroyed by arrangement with the librarian.

No premises were disinfected during the year.

A standing arrangement with Hindley Urban District Council exists for the transportation and treatment of infected articles requiring steam disinfection.

RODENT CONTROL

One trained part-time operator is employed on rodent control work.

The following abstract from the Annual Report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food indicates the nature and extent of work carried out during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1970.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	Non-agricultural	Agricultural
(a) Number of properties in district ...	4,609	28
(b) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	151	7
(c) Number of (b) infested by—rats ...	91	5
mice ...	41	1
(d) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	191	28
(e) Number of (d) infested by—rats ...	10	2
mice ...	12	Nil

No sewers were found to be infested by rats during the year.

A total of 500 visits was made for rodent control purposes. No unusual difficulties were experienced in the destruction of rats and mice and no other infestation as defined in Section 28 of the Act had to be dealt with.

The rat is a parasite on our social structure and the depredations of rodents if left to proliferate are costly and highly dangerous.

Rodent control techniques are better understood and practiced today than ever before.

Residents can help by repressing rats and mice and reporting immediately the presence of these pests.

The services of the Council's rodent operator—under the control and supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector—are available to undertake the destruction of rats and mice on land or premises within the Urban District.

No charge is made for the disinfestation of private dwelling-houses but business and agricultural premises are charged for treatments on a time and material basis as distinct from contract terms.

The sewers and sewage disposal works were systematically treated also the refuse disposal sites.

It is only by co-ordinated attention to underground and surface infestations that the rat population is kept to a minimum.

No legal proceedings were taken under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act during the year.

Regular attendances were made at the South West Lancashire Advisory Committee on Pest Control and the fullest co-operative working with contiguous local authorities and other bodies exists.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Public sanitary conveniences for both sexes planned and equipped on modern lines are maintained by the Council in a central and convenient position in the township.

The conveniences were the target for such serious acts of vandalism during the year that the Council was forced to close the premises for several months.

The ratepayer had to foot the bill for the damage sustained and was also deprived of a rate-borne service.

Punishment should be made to and be seen to fit the crime in all cases of vandalism dealt with.

The Council has made byelaws as to the conduct of persons using the conveniences.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Continuous pollution of rivers and streams takes place from both public and private sewage disposal plant. Attempts are made to reduce the pollution from private premises by the Health Department arranging for the cleansing of cesspools and septic tanks at the cost of the respective owners. The pollution from public sewage disposal works can only be mitigated by the completion of Phase II of the sewage disposal scheme.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Standish has a water carriage system serving the majority of premises in the district.

Improvement of the internal sewerage systems including the construction of three pumping stations (Phase I) was completed in 1969.

Construction of Phase II of the sewerage scheme was commenced on the 2nd November, 1970, and at the end of the year satisfactory progress was being made.

Phase II of the sewerage scheme involves the construction of a large pumping station at the Chorley Road site with rising outfall main to join the trunk sewer of Wigan Corporation at Crooke thence to the disposal works at Hoscarr.

The sewerage of part of Wigan Lower Road and the provision of a sewer to the unsewered part of Wigan Road and to Hawthorn Avenue are also included in this scheme.

The completion of Phase II will commission Phase I and make the abolition of the totally inadequate and unsatisfactory sewage farms at Fairhurst House and Langtree and the disposal works at Chorley Road possible.

A scheme for the enlargement of the sewers discharging to the Arbour Lane pumping station is also in preparation.

CARAVAN SITES AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

One site licence to use a plot of land as a site for a single caravan is in force under the provisions of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

The use of caravans and similar structures for permanent residence should be discouraged as such moveable structures do not constitute suitable substitutes for dwellings of traditional construction.

There are no camping sites within the Urban District.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

General observations of the four industrial chimneys were made during the year. Pollution of the atmosphere from industrial furnaces within the Urban District has now largely been eliminated.

The emission of smoke and fumes from the extensive burning spoilbanks at the disused Victoria and Giants Hall Collieries gave cause for grave concern.

Combustion in both these spoilbanks is so extensive and deep-seated—having been activated by shale extraction—that control measures have proved to be most difficult and time consuming.

Complaints from residents living in the vicinity of these spoilbanks concerning the vile atmosphere which this combustion creates are both vociferous and justified.

To have better co-operation from the respective owners of the spoilbanks would greatly ease the task of the Public Health Department in exercising its advisory and supervisory role.

Section 3 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, requires the person proposing to install a new furnace having a heating capacity greater than 55,000 British Thermal Units per hour to give notice of this intention to the local authority. One such installation was notified during the year.

With regard to the progressive elimination of domestic smoke—responsible for about one half of all atmospheric pollution—householders are advised to install approved smokeless methods of heating when replacing old and obsolete grates. The trend towards full or partial central heating in new and existing dwellings is a correct one.

With the object of promoting cleaner air, Regulation M2 of The Building Regulations, 1965, requires the installation of approved heating or cooking appliances in new buildings.

This Urban District is not included in the provisional list of “black areas” prepared by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for domestic smoke-control purposes.

The Council is a member of the National Society for Clean Air.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

No offensive trades are carried on in the district.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are none in the district.

SWIMMING BATHS AND BATHING POOLS

There are no public swimming baths or pools in the district.

There are two schools with pools—one is a hydrotherapy pool with diatomaceous earth continuous filtration—the other is a swimming pool with continuous pressure sand filtration—both have automatic hypochlorite chlorination.

Samples of the pool water are regularly taken for bacteriological examination to keep a check on the efficacy of operation of the filtration and chlorination plant.

Public health control in this way is most important since the operation of these pools is usually in the hands of untrained persons.

SHOPS AND OFFICES

(1)—Shops Acts, 1950 to 1965.

The provisions of these Acts concerning working hours, intervals for meals and rest and weekly half-day holiday of young persons are the responsibility of the Lancashire County Council as the Shops Acts Authority, but the Chief Public Health Inspector is delegated Inspector of Shops by the County Council as regards these matters. Details of each shop inspection are sent to the County Medical Officer of Health and any contraventions reported are dealt with directly by the County Council.

There are 139 shops of various kinds within the Urban District in respect of which 294 inspections were made. Assistants are employed in sixty-six shops and young persons in ten of this number.

(2)—Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

The purpose of this Act is to make provision for securing the health, safety and welfare of persons employed to work in office, shop and certain railway premises.

The following is an abstract of information from the Annual Report made to the Minister of Labour in accordance with the provisions of Section 60 of the Act.

CLASS OF WORKPLACE	Total number of registered premises at end of year	No. of persons employed in such premises
Offices:	18	69
Retail shops:	37	108
Wholesale shops, warehouses:	4	28
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens:	7	42
Fuel storage depots:	3	6
Totals	69	Males: 109 Females: 144
Number of general inspections carried out:		69
Number of visits of all kinds made:		125
Number of contraventions found:		96
Number of notices served re. contraventions:		22
Number of exemptions granted:		Nil
Number of prosecutions:		Nil
Number of accidents reported:		2

All registered premises have been dealt with by way of an initial general inspection and are now receiving at least one routine general inspection annually.

HAIRDRESSING ESTABLISHMENTS

There are twelve hairdressing establishments (two for males and ten for females) within the Urban District.

Byelaws as to the cleanliness of hairdressers and barbers made under Section 77 of the Public Health Act, 1961, came into operation on the 1st July, 1967.

Enforcement of the byelaws is resulting in higher standards of cleanliness and the provision of sterilisers for hairdressing equipment in all establishments has now been accomplished.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

Part I of the Factories Act, 1961

1.—INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors.)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	1	1	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority	31	17	1	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	6	18	1	Nil
TOTAL ...	38	36	2	Nil

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspec. (4)	by H.M. Inspec. (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient ...	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL ...	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil

The provision of sanitary conveniences on sites of building operations in accordance with Section 127 of the Act is an important matter often neglected and demands constant vigilance to avoid insanitary conditions arising.

Outwork is carried on in two premises recorded under Part VIII of the Act.

A number of workplaces coming within the provisions of Section 46 of the Public Health Act, 1936, are regularly inspected.

Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.

This Act imposes upon local authorities the duty of ensuring that all agricultural units within its area where workers are employed in agriculture are provided with suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences which must be properly maintained and kept clean.

There are twenty-seven agricultural units in this Urban District which are generally small in character and on which no exceptional seasonal work takes place. Inspections of these agricultural units have revealed that all have available the water or conservancy type of sanitary convenience at the farmstead sufficient to meet the needs of regular and seasonal workers.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are no premises registered or licensed under the above Act within the Urban District.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

The Noise Abatement Act recognised for the first time in history that noise can be a danger to health.

Subject to certain exceptions—noise or vibration which is a nuisance can now be dealt with as a statutory nuisance.

Fourteen noise complaints were investigated and dealt with during the year. Most of the complaints were in respect of unmuffled road breakers and the excessive use of chimes by ice-cream vendors.

LICENSED PREMISES

There are thirteen public houses within the Urban District.

Systematic inspections are made of the sanitary accommodation at these premises and should the need arise reports are prepared and submitted to the General Annual Licensing Meeting of the Justices. By this means considerable structural improvements to sanitary accommodation have been effected at several of the licensed premises.

A Hygiene Code of Practice for public houses which, *inter alia*, directs particular attention to the cleansing and sterilising of glasses, abolition of lead and other unsuitable beer piping and pumps, cleansing of beer piping and pumps, disposal of drippings and overspill beer and the abolition of spittoons has been formulated and addressed to owners and licensees of all public houses and secretaries and stewards of all clubs within the Urban District by whom it has been well received.

The gradual introduction of the pressurised beer pumps together with the use of the lined drinking glasses will do much to improve the hygiene of beer dispensing.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

All food premises and all food stalls and delivery vehicles operating in the district have been inspected and assessed in comparison with The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966, and the By-laws for securing the observance of Sanitary and Cleanly Conditions and Practices in connection with the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air.

During the year 346 food hygiene inspections were made and except in fifty cases—twelve in respect of fixed premises and thirty-eight in respect of mobile food traders—all contraventions discovered were dealt with verbally on the spot.

Constant vigilance was necessary to achieve and maintain a reasonably good standard of food hygiene on food stalls and delivery vehicles but steady progress was made.

One very important aspect of food hygiene which needs to be given more attention by food traders is the care and proper use of quick-frozen food storage cabinets. Inattention to stock rotation, stacking of frozen food above the load-line, badly sited frozen food cabinets

within food premises and failure to provide a thermometer to check the operating temperature of frozen food cabinets are all matters which could result in the sale of unfit food.

Food Hygiene Code of Practice No. 8 (Hygiene in the Meat Trades) was distributed to all retailers of meat and meat food products.

Regular ante-mortem and 100 per cent post-mortem inspection of all animals slaughtered at the one licensed private slaughterhouse within the district was carried out as detailed in the following table.

In accordance with the provisions of Regulation 3A (4) of the Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations, 1966, the Council has determined that the days on which, and the hours in those days between which, animals may be slaughtered shall be Monday to Friday (inclusive) from 6.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. daily.

A total of 2,539 carcasses and organs of food animals was inspected involving 149 visits to the slaughterhouse and all inspections were carried out in accordance with the provisions of The Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963.

Maximum charges as allowed by these regulations are made by the Council for meat inspection and marking services which during the year produced an income of £124 15s. 6d.

There are no poultry processing premises within the district.

DETAILS				Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	...	...	...	403	Nil	Nil	456	1,680	Nil
Number inspected	...	...	...	403	Nil	Nil	456	1,680	Nil
<i>All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci:—</i>									
Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	105	Nil	Nil	90	161	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	...	...	...	26.05	Nil	Nil	19.74	9.64	Nil
<i>Tuberculosis only:—</i>									
Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	6	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.36	Nil
<i>Cysticercosis:—</i>									
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	2	Nil	Nil	6	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The following foods were inspected and voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption:—

<i>Description of food</i>	<i>Disease or other cause of condemnation</i>	<i>Weight condemned</i>			
		<i>tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Canned tomato pulp.....	Decomposition.....	34	19	2	20
Mixed spices	Mouldy		3	0	14
Dried whole egg.....	Mouldy		1	3	24
Frozen foods (various)	Decomposition.....		1	3	17
Lamb chops	Decomposition.....			1	9
Shoulder mutton	Decomposition.....			1	4
Leg mutton	Decomposition.....			1	2
Plain flour	Rodent contamination				20
		35	7	2	26

<i>Carcases-Organs or parts condemned</i>	<i>Number condemned</i>	<i>Disease or other cause of condemnation</i>	<i>Weight condemned</i> <i>cwts. qrs. lbs.</i>	
CATTLE, EXCLUDING COWS:—				
Head less tongue	2 (2)	Cysticercus bovis	1	22
Head and tongue.....	1	Abscess	1	0
Head and tongue.....	1	Actinobacillosis	1	0
Lungs	4	Congestion and pneumonia	1	4
Lungs.....	4	Abscess	1	4
Hearts	1	Pericarditis.....		3
Diaphragm or skirt.....	29	Abscess	3	3
Livers (whole)	65	Abscess	5 3	6
Livers (whole)	6	Distomatosis and cirrhosis	2	4
Livers (whole)	1	Bacterial necrosis		10
Livers (part)	25	Cirrhosis	1 0	13
Spleens	1	Abscess		3
Kidney with suet	4 (105)	Abscess		24
SHEEP AND LAMBS:—				
Hearts	6 (6)	Cysticercus ovis		21½
Lungs with heart.....	2	Septic pneumonia		4
Breast	2	Septic pneumonia		3
Breast	1	Abscess		1
Part flank	1	Abscess		1
Legs	1	Abscess.....		2
Livers	85 (90)	Parasitic.....	3	1
PIGS:—				
Heads	6 (6)	Tuberculosis	2	16
Whole carcase and organs	1 (1)	Pyæmia	2	19
Heads	9	Abscess	3	24
Head and shoulder	1	Abscess		22
Shoulders (part)	2	Abscess		6
Belly (part).....	2	Abscess		5
Belly (part)	1	Bruising		3
Loins (part)	1	Abscess		15
Hindquarters	1	Abscess	1	7
Shanks	2	Abscess		5
Lungs	2	Abscess		6
Lungs with heart.....	17	Pleurisy and pericarditis.....	1	23
Plucks	9	Congestion	1	26
Hearts	36	Pericarditis.....		18
Livers	71	Parasitic	1 3	17
Kidneys	11 (161)	Hydronephrosis		4
			17 0	181½

Grand total weight: 36 tons 4 cwts. 3 qrs. 16½ lbs.

A perusal of these post-mortem findings would not be complete without it being known that the *Cysticerci* infestations were in all cases confined to one degenerate cyst.

The incidence of large abscesses in the liver usually involving adhesion to the diaphragm of intensively reared bovine animals is increasing significantly.

The canned tomato pulp is imported by a food canning firm operating in the district and damage during transit or deterioration during storage are the reasons for condemnation.

The containerisation of this commodity in bulk and the impact of the provisions of The Imported Food Regulations, 1968, whereby inspection at the port of entry is deferred to be undertaken by the inland receiving authority, has placed a greater responsibility on the Public Health Department.

All condemned meat and other food is disposed of either to non-edible by-product manufacturers or by burying at the local authority's refuse disposal site under the direction and supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector. All condemned meat is disposed of in accordance with The Meat (Sterilisation) Regulations, 1969.

The following information is given in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health circular.

Number of food premises (by type of business) in district at end of year:

Type of Business	No.
General grocers and provision dealers	34
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish/game/etc.)	5
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry/game/etc.)	Nil
Meat shops (butchers/purveyors of cooked and preserved meat/tripe/etc.)	8
Bakers and/or confectioners	5
Fried fish shops	6
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery/minerals/ice-cream/etc.	5
Licensed premises/clubs/canteens/restaurants/cafes/snack bars and similar catering establishments	30
Others	6
	—
TOTAL	99
	—
Number of above premises where more than one type of classified business is carried on	8
	—
Actual number of food premises	91
	—

All food premises to which Regulations 16 and 19 apply—concerning the provision of wash-hand basins and sinks—are fully fitted to comply with the legal requirements.

Number of food premises (by type) registered under the Lancashire County Council (River Board and General Powers) Act, 1938.

Type of business	Number registered at 31st December, 1970	Number of inspections of registered premises during year
(a) Sale of ice-cream	37	
(b) Preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted or pressed or pickled or preserved meat	5	42

The provisions of Section 14 of the Lancashire County Council (River Board and General Powers) Act, 1951, were not adopted by the Council and registration of premises and persons continues to be effected under Section 115 and 116 of the Act of 1938.

Food hawkers registered under the Lancashire County Council (River Board and General Powers) Acts, 1938 and 1968.

About thirty-seven hawkers of meat or meat food products or fish or fruit or vegetables are registered with the Council under the provisions of the above Act.

Regular inspections of the vehicles and food offered or exposed for sale are made and the hawker's attention drawn to any irregularities found.

Ice-cream:—

There are no manufacturers of ice-cream within the Urban District. All shop retailers of ice-cream and water-ice are equipped with a modern refrigerator and sell pre-packed products of reputable quality. The only loose ice-cream sold within the area is by itinerant vendors.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963.

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district.

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority and the County Medical Officer has kindly supplied the following details:—

A total of twenty-six samples was obtained by the County Sampling Officers in the Urban District made up of twelve samples of milk and fourteen samples of other commodities.

Upon examination by the County Analyst all but three of the samples proved to be genuine. Appropriate action was taken in respect of the adverse samples.

Four further complaints concerning unsatisfactory milk or food were dealt with locally.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Statutory Instruments Nos. 1019 and 1020 made by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on the 29th May, 1961, came into operation on the 1st July, 1961, from which date existing slaughterhouses in the district had to comply with hygiene and prevention of cruelty construction regulations.

There is one licensed private slaughterhouse within the Urban District where much of the meat consumed by Standish residents is produced and this has been brought up to the standard required by the regulations. It is pleasing to record that the important work of meat production thereat has operated quite satisfactorily.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1958

The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958

The above Act prohibits the slaughtering and stunning of animals except by licensed slaughtermen and requires all animals to be stunned by a mechanically operated instrument prior to slaughter. The above regulations are designed to secure humane conditions and practices in connection with the slaughter of animals at slaughterhouses and knacker's yards.

A license to slaughter animals is valid for a maximum period of one year and must specify the types of animal permitted to be slaughtered and the type of stunning instrument to be used.

Seven slaughtermen are licensed by the Council to slaughter animals.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

This Act provides for a system of licensing and inspection of pet shops by local authorities. The principal purpose is to enforce reasonable treatment and accommodation of pet animals during their sale or keeping for sale.

There are no pet shops within the Urban District.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

This Act provides for a system of licensing and inspection by local authorities of any establishment at which a business of providing accommodation for cats or dogs is carried on.

The purpose of the Act is to regulate the keeping of boarding establishments for animals and for purposes connected therewith.

There are no boarding establishments within the Urban District.

MILK AND DAIRIES ADMINISTRATION

The following statistics give some idea of the milk supply of the district:

Milk producers in the district.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
including producer retailers	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
including producer wholesalers	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Milk producers outside the district retailing in the district					1
All untreated milk is from tuberculin tested stock.					

The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959:—

Number of milk distributors registered by the local authority and operating from:—

(a) Dairies in the district	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
(b) Shops in the district other than dairies.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	28
(c) Premises outside the district	.....	.....	.....	.....	4

The Urban District is included in Area 8 of the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1958, in which the use of special designations in relation to the retail sales of milk for human consumption is made compulsory.

Nineteen inspections of milk distributors' premises and vehicles were carried out during the year and time spent on advisory work in connection with clean and safe milk distribution.

Milk sampling:—

Since all milk producing herds within the Urban District hold Tuberculin Tested licences and all milk disposed of wholesale is destined for pasteurisation—the sampling of untreated milk is confined to that from herds where the milk is sold by retail distribution.

During the year eleven samples of milk were taken for biological examination. Eight samples submitted to the test for tuberculosis were all negative.

Eight samples of milk were submitted to the Methylene Blue test for cleanliness and all were graded as satisfactory.

Brucellosis—Eleven samples of untreated milk from four herds gave a negative reaction when submitted to the milk ring test for brucella infection.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse collection and disposal:—

The Refuse Collection Service provides employment for fifteen full-time men—this includes the foreman.

The vehicle establishment consists of two “Dennis” Paxit IIA 16/24 cubic yard capacity compression loaders and one “Dennis” 10 cubic yard sideloader—all powered by diesel engines.

The changing character of refuse—now lighter and bulkier—the impact of the shorter working week and the growth of the district indicate the importance of better payloads and in this respect the merits of the compression loader are self-evident.

Except for the interruptions caused by general holidays a weekly collection of refuse—from the rear of all premises—was maintained throughout the year.

It is gratifying to record that the refuse collection service operates generally without complaint—a service which intimately touches every ratepayer—and by the standard of this service the efficiency or otherwise of a local authority may sometimes be judged.

Considerable importance is attached to adequate and regular vehicle maintenance and the working of overtime is discouraged.

The Council has formally resolved not to undertake the removal of trade refuse—since with few exceptions—no charges are made for this service. Much of the trade refuse removed is salvaged and sold and the revenue so produced is greater than that which would accrue from trade refuse charges.

The sand pits at Langtree Hall Farm used for the purpose of refuse disposal have proved very satisfactory and no complaints have been received. It is anticipated that this site will provide disposal capacity for several years.

The four-wheel drive Michigan 35A tractor shovel acquired in 1965 has proved itself indispensable in achieving and maintaining adequate and regular control of the refuse disposal sites.

The refuse tips are regularly treated with bait and insecticide as a precaution against rodent and insect infestation.

The emptying of the few remaining pail closets was carried out weekly.

Dustbin provision scheme:—

The dustbin provision and ownership scheme has been in existence since 1951 and is operating satisfactorily. During the year 211 dustbins were provided out of the General Rate Fund.

In consequence of the consideration given to the Report of the Working Party on Refuse Storage and Collection, the Council decided that the “Dennis” 3½ cubic feet polypropylene injection moulded dustbin with hinged lid, which, by way of a pilot scheme had been proved entirely satisfactory in use, henceforth be used in the operation of the dustbin provision scheme instead of the mild steel galvanised dustbin.

The disposable sack system of refuse storage is in operation at a block of twelve flats in Grove Lane.

Salvage recovery:—

Salvage was collected at the same time as the refuse and kept separately for baling and subsequent despatch to Thames Board Mills Limited at Warrington under contract arrangements.

The salvage of waste paper has come to be regarded as a permanent and important part of the Public Cleansing Service.

The workmen are rewarded 25 per cent of all income from the sale of salvaged materials as an incentive to increase collection.

The income from the sale of salvaged materials during the calendar year was:—

Grade	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Mixed papers.....	113	18	0	1,168	15	6
Fibreboard containers	115	14	0	1,388	8	0
White newspapers	61	10	0	768	15	0
Total weight	291	2	0	3,325	18	6
Rags and scrap	16	2	0	112	15	9
Grand total weight	307	4	0	3,438	14	3

These totals represent the highest output since salvage recovery was started in 1938.

Report of the Working Party on Refuse Collection:—

In accordance with Circular 34/67 from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, a comprehensive account of the fourteen main points of the above report was prepared, relating comments thereon to the refuse collection service applicable to this Urban District.

The report was very carefully considered by the Public Health Committee, whereupon it was noted that the arrangements for the storage and collection of refuse provided by this authority bear very favourable comparison with the recommendations of the report of the Working Party.

Nevertheless, future improvements in the service will be made in the light of these recommendations and the warning given of the need to plan well ahead in refuse storage and collection methods has not gone unheeded.

Civic Amenities Act, 1967:—

The statutory obligations placed upon the Council by the provisions of Part III of the above Act have been met in the following manner:—

- (a) by the specific provision of a refuse dump at Seven Stars Sand-pits where Standish residents may take and dispose of unwanted vehicles, bulky household refuse and other rubbish, other than business refuse, free of charge at all reasonable times (Section 18).

In the case of residents, who, for one reason or another, are unable to avail themselves of this facility, upon request, the removal of bulky household refuse is undertaken by the local authority free of charge.

This new service was publicised by the distribution of a circular letter to every household and business premises within the district, and, as a result, it can be said that the enormous amount of bulky refuse disposed of since August, 1968, which has to be seen to be believed, amply demonstrates that the service is known and appreciated.

Under such circumstances of indiscriminate dumping, adequate tip control presents a problem, and this task is made all the more difficult by trespassers who resort to the tip to sort over the discards of the throwaway society.

In spite of the provision of and publicity given to these facilities, it was found necessary to have to deal with the removal of four derelict cars and eleven cases of unlawful dumping of rubbish.

It can, however, be truly said that the district is generally cleaner because of these efforts.

- (b) by entering into a formal arrangement with a local garage proprietor for the removal, storage and disposal of abandoned vehicles in accordance with the statutory charges laid down in The Removal and Disposal of Vehicles Regulations, 1968 (Sections 20 to 22).

Anti-litter campaign:—

The Council has provided a number of litter bins which have been fixed at suitable points in the district. These are emptied at weekly intervals by the Public Cleansing Department.

Street cleansing:—

The cleansing of non-county roads is carried out under the direction and supervision of the Engineer and Surveyor.

Starrs of Wigan Ltd.
Dawber Street Works,
Wigan.
